

In the Claims:

1. (original) A housing assembly for receiving a tool comprising:

a housing having a front end, a back end, a top surface, and a channel configured within said top surface and extending inwardly from a peripheral edge of said back end of said housing, said channel having a bottom wall and opposing side walls extending upwardly from said bottom wall, and further having an opening in said side wall at said back end of said housing, said channel being configured to slideably receive a removable tool, said channel and said removable tool having complementary formations for interfitting engagement thereof; and

a closure element movably coupled to said back end of said housing, said closure element being movable between a first open position away from said rear opening in said sidewall of said channel, and a second closed position received in mated relation over said rear opening in said sidewall of said channel.

2. (original) The housing assembly of claim 1, wherein said removable tool comprises a pocketknife having a left and right side surface.

3. (original) The housing assembly of claim 2, wherein said one of said left and right surfaces is flush with the top surface of said housing when said pocketknife is received in said channel.

4. (original) The housing assembly of claim 3 wherein said pocket knife includes a frame and at least one blade extending beyond a peripheral edge of said frame, said blade engaging with a complementary groove in said channel to retain said pocket knife within said channel.

5. (currently amended) A housing including a secondary tool storage compartment comprising:

a housing having a primary compartment, said primary compartment being configured to receive a primary tool, said housing including a front portion ~~end~~, a back portion ~~Including a terminal back end~~ and a top surface; and

a channel forming a secondary compartment in said back portion ~~end~~ of said housing, said channel having a bottom wall and a side wall extending upwardly between said bottom wall and said top surface with an opening in said side wall at said terminal back end of said housing, said channel slideably receiving and retaining a secondary tool through said opening in said side wall said side walls of said channel including mating formations that engage and retain said secondary tool.

6. (currently amended) The housing of claim 5, further comprising:

a closure element pivotably connected to said terminal back end of said housing, said closure element being pivotable from a first open position to a second closed position over said opening in said sidewall wherein said closure element in said closed position retains said secondary tool in said channel.

7. (original) The housing of claim 5, wherein said removable tool is a pocketknife having a left and right side surface.

8. (original) The housing of claim 7, wherein said one of said left and right surfaces is flush with the top surface of said housing when said pocketknife is received in said channel.

Serial No. 10/691,907

9. (original) The housing of claim 6, wherein said removable tool is a pocketknife having a left and right side surface.

10. (original) The housing of claim 9, wherein said one of said left and right surfaces is flush with the top surface of said housing when said pocketknife is received in said channel.

11. (currently amended) A device case including a secondary tool storage compartment comprising:

an outer casing for receiving and enclosing a primary device, said outer casing having a front portion ~~end~~, a back portion including a terminal back end and a top surface; and

a channel forming a secondary compartment in said back portion ~~end~~ of said outer casing, said channel having a bottom wall and a side wall extending upwardly between said bottom wall and said top surface with an opening in said side wall at said terminal back end of said housing, said channel slideably receiving and retaining a secondary tool through said opening in said side wall said side walls of said channel including mating formations that engage and retain said secondary tool.

12. (currently amended) The device case of claim 11, further comprising:

a closure element pivotably connected to said terminal back end of said housing, said closure element being pivotable from a first open position to a second closed position over said opening in said sidewall wherein said closure element in said closed position retains said secondary tool in said channel.

Serial No. 10/691,907

13. (original) The device case of claim 11, wherein said removable tool is a pocketknife having a left and right side surface.

14. (original) The device case of claim 13, wherein said one of said left and right surfaces is flush with the top surface of said housing when said pocketknife is received in said channel.

15. (original) The device case of claim 11, wherein said removable tool is a pocketknife having a left and right side surface.

16. (original) The device case of claim 15, wherein said one of said left and right surfaces is flush with the top surface of said housing when said pocketknife is received in said channel.

17. (original) In combination,

a pocketknife comprising:

a frame having opposing, symmetrical side surfaces;

at least one blade movably mounted to said frame between said side surface, said blade being movable between an open position and a closed position wherein an outer edge of said blade extends beyond a peripheral edge of said side surface; and

a case assembly comprising:

a primary compartment;

a secondary compartment having a front end, a back end, a top surface, and a channel configured within said top surface, said secondary compartment having a bottom wall and opposing side walls extending inwardly from a peripheral edge of said back end of said housing and terminating at a front wall, said secondary compartment being configured to slideably receive said pocket knife in interfitting mated relation therein,

said secondary compartment and said pocket knife having complementary formations for interfitting engagement thereof; and

a closure element movably coupled to said back end of said housing, said closure element being movable between a first open position away from said back end of said housing, and a second closed position received in mated relation over said back end of said housing.

18. (original) The combination of claim 17, wherein said side edges of said secondary compartment include grooves for receiving said outer edge of said blade of said pocket knife.

19. (original) The combination of claim 18, wherein one of said side surfaces of said pocket knife is flush with the top surface of said housing when said pocketknife is received in said secondary compartment.